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THE DISTRIBUTION OF PEOPLE IN JAPAN IN 1913

By MARK JEFFERSON

The most striking feature of human distribution in Japan appears to be the belt of maximum population that lies along the shores of the Inland Sea and continues eastward, with a little northing, toward Tokyo. All the pre-

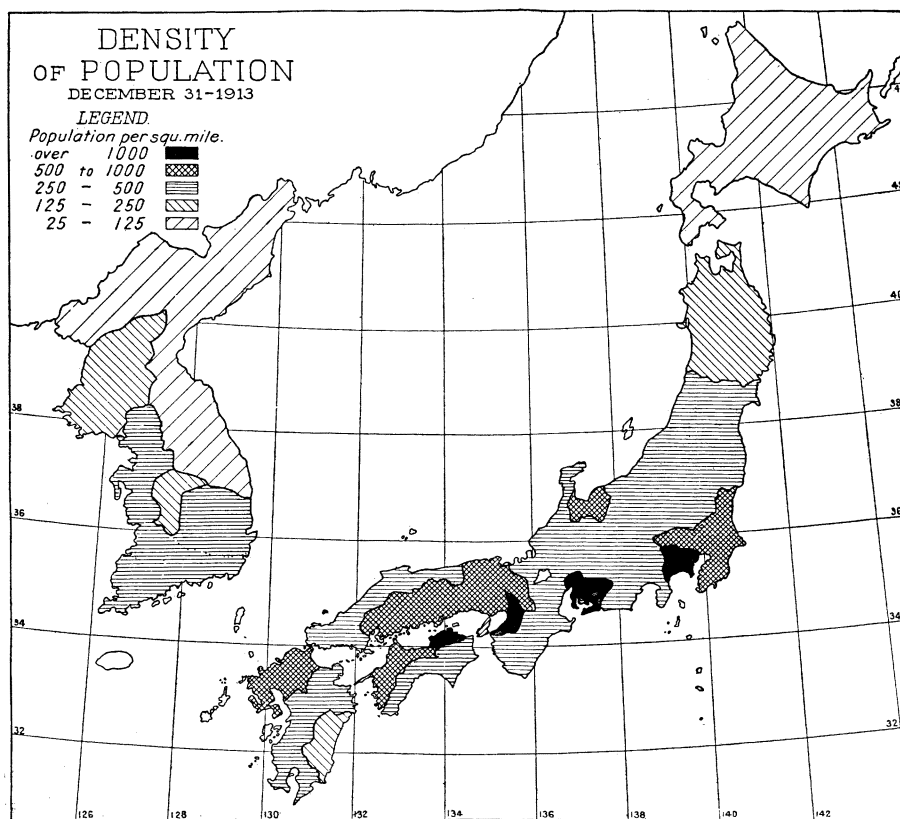


FIG. 1—Sketch map of the population density of Japan and Korea on December 31, 1913, according to data supplied by Professor N. Yamasaki of the Geographical Institute of the University of Tokyo. Scale, 1:16,000,000.

features of the empire that have more than a thousand people to the square mile—the black patches of the map (Fig. 1)—lie in this belt. Almost all the cross-lined ones, too, the regions of more than 500 people to the square mile, are in the same strip. Another aspect of this feature of Japanese anthropography comes out on Figure 3, the diagram of great cities, whereon the shape and size of the symbols indicate to the eye the population to the nearest hundred thousand. In Japan, as elsewhere, the denser popu-

lation-groups have created great cities to serve them through the manufacturing and distribution of products. Kanazawa is the only large city of Japan proper that does not lie in the Inland Sea belt. The remaining eight are all larger than Kanazawa. From west to east they are (the numbers in parentheses represent the population in hundred thousands): Nagasaki (2), on the western island Kiushiu; thence eastward in Honshiu—Hiroshima (1), Kure (1), Kobe (4), Osaka (12), Kyoto (4), Nagoya (4), Yokahama (4), and Tokyo (21). In Korea the two cities Ping Yan (2)

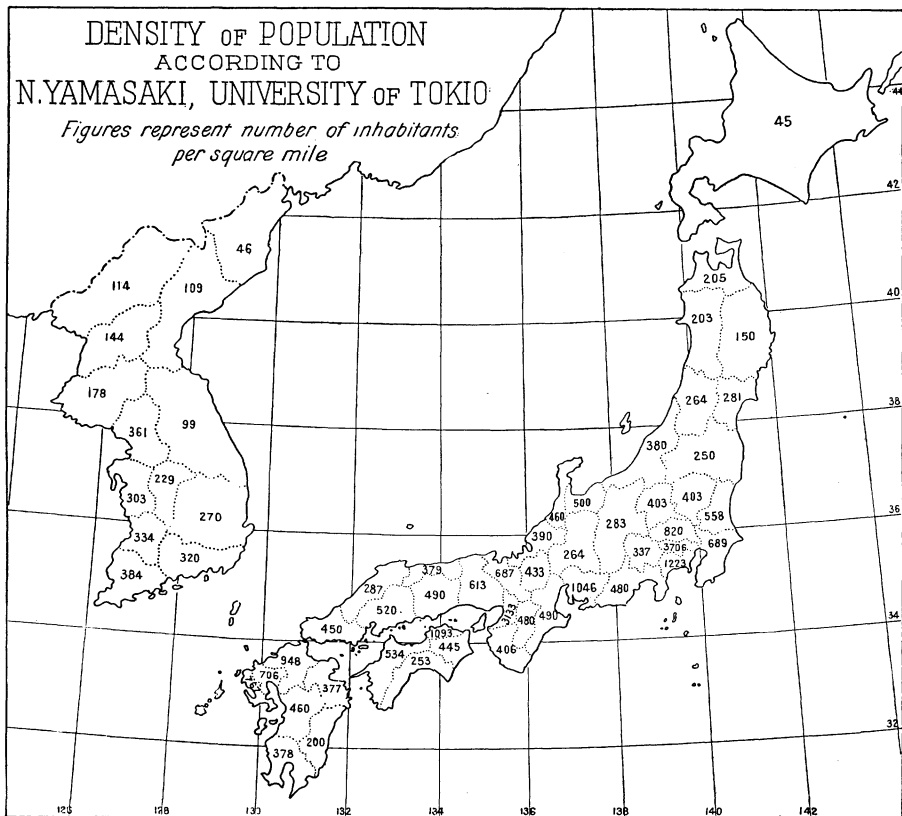


FIG. 2—Sketch map showing the population density on December 31, 1913, of each prefecture in Japan and Korea. Scale, 1:16,000,000.

and Seoul (3) lie in the more densely populated regions of the longer western slopes of the peninsula.

On Figure 2 is shown the population density of each prefecture, bringing out the salient facts in a little more detail. Thus, on the northern shore of the Inland Sea occur population densities of 450, 520, 490, and 613. Along the southern shore are 948, 534, and 1093. At the east end of the sea is Osaka prefecture, with 3133 people to the square mile, and farther to the eastward follow 490, 1046, 480, 1223, 3706, and 689. These are the greatest

population densities in the empire. Northward the numbers diminish rapidly, until in Yezo (Hokkaido) the density is only 45. Still farther north Japanese Sakhalin (Karafuto) has but 3 people to the mile. Korea, too, has its greatest density near the southern end, in about the latitude of Japan's dense belt.

The concentration of people in the Inland Sea belt is mainly due to the location in that neighborhood of the only considerable plains of the country. Japan proper has a mean density of population of 353 people to the square

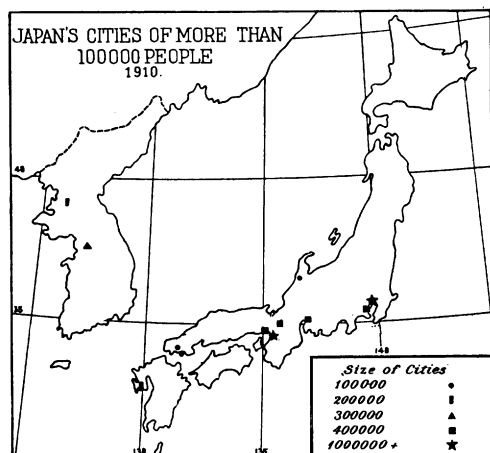


FIG. 3.—Sketch map showing location and size of cities of more than 100,000 inhabitants in 1910 in Japan and Korea. Scale, 1:30,000,000.

mile, but only 20,000 square miles, or 13 per cent, of the total area are cultivated, in a land where agriculture is the dominant occupation. The islands have too much mountain and waste land that the people are unable to utilize, in spite of a vast application of labor to terrace cultivation. Among the mountains only threads and strips of settlement can wind their way along valley floors and lower slopes, but on the plains that border the Inland Sea the fields are continuous, and a dense population tills them. Nagasaki on Honshiu owes much to coal-

fields, like the cities of the English Midlands, but this is the exception among Japanese regions. "All the larger towns, with the exception of Kyoto, may be said to derive their prosperity from the comparatively wide and fertile plains in which they are situated."¹ The largest plain in Japan is that on which stands the city of Tokyo. Not counting the city, the whole 2,700 square miles of the plain supports nearly 2,000 people to the square mile.

This crowding in southern Japan is in strong contrast with the sparse settlement of Yezo, with only 45 people to the square mile. Severe winters give life in the north a harsher aspect, but the economic pressure from the crowded south is causing the population of Yezo to increase proportionally faster than in any other part of the empire.² As will be seen from the table that follows, the population of Yezo has almost trebled in the last fifteen years, out of all relation to increments elsewhere. But it has been steady. There were in Yezo, in 1898, 610,155 people; in 1903, 843,615; in 1908,

¹ W. B. Mason: Japan, in "The International Geography," edited by H. R. Mill, New York, 1909, pp. 544-554; reference on p. 552.

² Compare note on "Japanese Internal Colonization" in the February *Review*, p. 144.

AREA, POPULATION, AND POPULATION DENSITY OF THE PREFECTURES OF THE JAPANESE EMPIRE, DECEMBER 31, 1913, ACCORDING TO PROFESSOR N. YAMASAKI*

PREFECTURE †	NUMBER OF INHABITANTS		AREA SQUARE RI	DENSITY PER SQ. MILE
	1898	1913		
Karafuto (Sakhalin).....	.....	44,356	2,136	3
Hokkaido (Yezo).....	610,155	1,650,000	5,987	45
HONSHIU				
Aomori.....	612,171	747,200	636	205
Akita.....	775,077	918,800	734	203
Iwate.....	720,380	827,500	1,039	153
Yamagata.....	829,210	950,700	597	264
Miyagi.....	835,830	912,700	484	281
Niigata.....	1,812,289	1,877,600	828	380
Fukushima.....	1,057,971	1,260,600	895	248
Ishikawa.....	781,784	779,400	272	480
Toyama.....	785,554	784,100	259	490
Nagano.....	1,237,584	1,448,600	879	283
Gumma.....	774,600	984,500	395	403
Tochigi.....	788,324	995,700	418	403
Ibaraki.....	1,131,556	1,290,000	396	558
Fukui.....	633,840	637,100	257	390
Gifu.....	996,062	1,065,000	706	264
Yamanashi.....	498,539	585,700	289	337
Saitama.....	1,174,094	1,304,700	249	820
Tokyo.....	1,507,642	2,809,600	139	3,706
Kanagawa.....	776,685	1,145,100	155	1,226
Chiba.....	1,273,387	1,367,400	329	699
Yamaguchi.....	986,161	1,060,900	395	454
Shimane.....	721,448	750,800	429	287
Hiroshima.....	1,436,415	1,624,500	548	520
Tottori.....	418,929	455,200	241	339
Okayama.....	1,132,000	1,234,200	441	490
Hogo.....	1,667,226	2,048,500	546	613
Kyoto.....	931,576	1,222,700	296	687
Osaka.....	1,311,909	2,175,700	115	3,133
Wakayama.....	681,572	757,700	292	401
Shiga.....	712,024	671,200	261	433
Nara.....	538,507	580,200	258	480
Miye.....	996,406	1,077,900	351	487
Aichi.....	1,591,357	1,962,500	327	1,046
Shizuoka.....	1,195,286	1,461,800	495	483
SHIKOKU				
Yehime.....	997,481	1,093,100	370	534
Kochi.....	616,549	690,200	460	253
Kagawa.....	700,402	744,100	120	1,093
Tokushima.....	699,398	724,700	268	445
KIUSHIU				
Nagasaki.....	821,323	1,082,600	267	767
Saga.....	621,011	678,600	158	706
Fukuoka.....	1,362,743	1,808,200	319	948
Kumamoto.....	1,151,401	1,279,300	482	458
Kagoshima.....	1,104,631	1,368,700	592	379
Miyagi.....	454,707	585,600	502	200
Okinawa.....	453,550	No such prefecture now.		
CHOSEN (KOREA)				
Kankyo Hokudo.....	.....	488,319	1,760	46
Helan Hokudo.....	.....	1,120,366	1,636	114
Helan Nando.....	.....	1,008,287	1,164	144
Kankyo Nando.....	.....	1,092,697	1,671	109
Kokaido.....	.....	1,176,991	1,102	178
Keikido.....	.....	1,657,759	765	361
Kogendo.....	.....	984,915	1,721	95
Chusei Nando.....	.....	1,047,686	576	303
Chusei Hokudo.....	.....	680,251	495	229
Keisho Hokudo.....	.....	1,829,040	1,133	270
Zenra Hokudo.....	.....	1,037,975	514	335
Keisho Nando.....	.....	1,599,064	833	320
Zenra Nando.....	.....	1,735,603	753	384
Taiwan (Formosa).....	2,781,222	3,543,553	2,332	257

* The census is not complete and a few figures are only "almost accurate." With regard to the areas in square ri, Professor Yamasaki writes, "one ri equals 12,960 feet," whence it is calculated to equal 2.455 miles, and a square ri, 6.02 square miles, and 6 is taken as the factor to transform densities per square ri to densities per square mile. Population figures for 1898 from A. Supan: *Die Bevölkerung der Erde*, XI, pp. 36-37, *Ergänzungsheft No. 135 zu Petermanns Mitt.*, Gotha, 1901, are added for comparison.

† The prefectures, which are divisions not represented on most maps, may be located on Figure 2 with the help of the table. They are here named from west to east, beginning on the north. It is worth mentioning that in repeatedly going over the administrative divisions of the world, the writer has found Rand, McNally and Company's large Library Atlas more helpful than any other, including French and German works. The prefectures of Japan are, however, clearly shown on Pl. 168-169 of the new, sixth edition (1914) of Andree's Handatlas.

1,132,095; and in 1913, 1,650,000. The great contrast in density between it and the southern islands is bound to set population moving towards it, but the inconvenience of its northern situation will check the current long before Yezo attains the southern degree of density.

Korea is included for the first time in the Japanese census. For 1913 its inhabitants totaled 15,458,863. For 1898 Supan gave 5,415,439 *tax-payers*, and quoted Taxcollector-General McLeary Brown as estimating the total population at 10,000,000 at that time. It was doubtless much more, for the Japanese immigration into Korea has not amounted to millions. Thus is afforded another illustration of the fact that the only way to ascertain the number of people in a country is to count them!

The totals for Formosa indicate a considerable influx of Japanese. The data available do not define clearly the boundaries of native subdivisions in the interior, but it is clear that the most populous regions are on the coast, especially in the west and north. Karenko on the west has 1,160 people to the mile.

Only three prefectures in Japan show a diminution of population in the fifteen-year period 1898-1913: Shiga, the interior division in Honshiu near the 136th meridian; Ishikawa, directly north of Shiga on the coast, containing the striking Noto peninsula; and Toyama, adjoining Ishikawa on the east. Some other prefectures near these show small growth, circumstances perhaps attributable to the rugged mountainous nature of the region.